

I, Robert Charland, am the owner of Shark Cycle, a family business which started in 1988 in Stafford Springs. We are in the business of selling and servicing recreational vehicles such as motorcycles, ATV's and scooters.

The reason for this email is that I strongly urge the Transportation Committee to vote in favor of **House Bill 5538**, which would allow the Polaris Slingshot three-wheeler to be registered in Connecticut. The statutory definition of a motorcycle needs to be amended to include a new category: Autocycle, meaning a three-wheeled vehicle that has a steering wheel and seating that does not require the operator to straddle or sit astride, and is manufactured to comply with federal safety requirements for motorcycles. The statute has been modified previously to accommodate the Segway, by changing the definition of a motorcycle to include standing on a platform. Therefore, the statute could be amended again to include Autocycle.

I, as well as others dealers, have met with the motor Vehicle Department and are in favor of having the Slingshot registered in Connecticut under a new category (e.g., autocycle). The Connecticut dealers would greatly benefit from the added revenue generated from selling and servicing the Slingshot in these difficult times. In addition, five components of the Slingshot are manufactured right here in Connecticut by Alinbal Inc. a manufacturing company in Milford, which further adds to the financial health of the state. This is an important issue for our business, as well as others, and we look forward to meeting with the Connecticut legislators for further dialogue.

On a personal note, one cannot put a monetary value on the emotional high and pleasure derived from riding a motorcycle. Riding for me and others, is a passion which is hard to describe. I have been riding now for some forty years. The Polaris Slingshot would extend the riding enjoyment of many aging participants who have trouble riding on two wheels.

To close, I urge you, the legislators of the Transportation Committee, to vote for HB 5538.

Sincerely,
Robert Charland
Shark Cycle

p.s. Connecticut is one of just four states that do not allow registration of the Slingshot.
To see a Slingshot video, go to a Google search and type: Polaris Slingshot